



programme

1957

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## *Our Festivals*

*T*HERE IS NOTHING NEW in the idea of holding a festival. Civilised peoples, from the earliest times, have held them to celebrate all manner of things, and the Christian Church has had the wisdom to graft some of its festivals and feasts on to ancient pagan ones. So far as Toc H is concerned, a festival provides members with an opportunity, not for congratulation on past achievements, but for a brief coming together to share in a glimpse of the path that lies ahead.

The real life and vitality of Toc H is centred in its Branches, often only a handful of men, but with roots that run deep through a local community. For many members the District Team is their main link with the wider Family and, once in a while, they find it good to journey further afield and share in celebrating with those from other parts. In practice, no matter how far a member travels, like those from Scotland who spend all night on the journey, he is bound to meet at the Festival with someone else who 'belongs' half a world away.

The main 'ingredient' of any Toc H Festival is, of course, the members themselves and the heartfelt sense of thanksgiving which they bring with them. While Toc H is not by any reckoning a mass movement, there is no single church in Britain large enough to hold more than a fraction of the Family. When the Festival is held in London, the best that can be achieved is to 'borrow' Westminster Abbey or St. Paul's Cathedral, together with one of the largest of the Free Church buildings. This works out well in practice, with Anglican and Free Church members clamouring to attend each others' shrine.

The English climate and its vagaries plays a big part in the plans for any Festival outdoor activities. In past years





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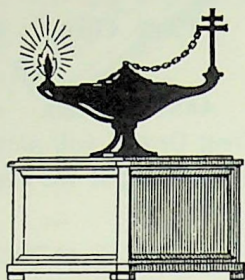
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## *'Light'*

### THE CEREMONY OF LIGHT

*All standing and the lights in the Hall being dimmed,  
"TUBBY" will say :*

#### LIGHT !

With proud thanksgiving let us remember our Elder Brethren.  
They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

ALL: *We will remember them.*

#### A MINUTE'S SILENCE

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works. . .

ALL: *And glorify our Father which is in heaven.*

#### *There will then be sung :*

Go forth with God ! the day is now  
That thou must meet the test of youth.  
Salvation's helm upon thy brow.  
Go girded with the living truth.  
In ways the Elder Brethren trod  
Thy feet are set. Go forth with God.  
Think fair of all, and all men love,  
And with the builder bear thy part ;  
Let every day and duty prove  
The humble witness of thy heart.  
Go forth ! 'tis God bids thee increase  
The bounds of Love and Joy and Peace.  
Behold with thine uplifted eyes  
Beauty through all that sorrow seems ;  
And make of earth a paradise,  
The substance of thy dearest dreams.  
Bring laughter to thy great employ ;  
Go forth with God and find His joy.

Words by Barclay Baron: music by Martin Shaw.





## **The Masque**

Some of the Headquarters Staff of Toc H first chatted about this Masque. Then Jim Davies, the Administrative Padre of Toc H, shaped the theme. F. G. Chesworth, the Editor of the Journal, thought of the title.

This is a fair division of labour — but the Masque still had to be written! The actors wrote it for the most part — not in every case, for members of the CAVERSHAM BRANCH are acting an industrial scene made up by a Sheffield industrial group.

Members of the IVER BRANCH supply words and players for 'the dreamers'. DATCHET BRANCH members are 'the blind' in another scene.

The CHALGROVE JOINT GROUP acts the parts of people with different needs — the sick, the old, the young asking questions. They also give a glimpse of those people caught up in conflicts of race — and members of MARK VII, in the last scene, enlarge on this in a question of colour. They tore up their first draft, and calmly started to create another — if 'calmly' is a word that has anything to do with their enquiring, argumentative and lively meetings!

This method may or may not produce 'Good Art'. It does allow members of the various units to work out what they want to say. LIONEL NGKANE, the South African film actor, joined the men of Mark VII for several meetings. JOHN GIBSON, the B.B.C. producer, very kindly helped them to put on their script with short scenes recorded by EARL CAMERON, NADIA CATOUS, ALAN OWEN, MARGARET LEIGH, and FRANK JEREMIAH. JOHN BUCKLAND supplied the music, and SAM SALVON the words, of the little calypso.

We are grateful that Miss ETHEL REVNELL may bring along her Cockney Kid to interrupt, assisted by MR. WALLY GREEN, but in voice only.

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## *Brief Biographies*

**The Rev. Austen Williams**, who preaches at the Service in Westminster Abbey, found Toc H when he came to London to start work in an office and went to live in Mark VII, Fitzroy Square. Later he was ordained and two years afterwards, in 1940, he joined the Toc H War Services team with the B.E.F. in Northern France. Three weeks later he met with the spearhead of the German attack across France and spent the next four-and-a-half years in internment camps where he was the only Anglican Chaplain. After the war he was London Toc H Padre until 1948, when he joined the staff of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. In 1951 he became Vicar of St. Alban, Clifton, whence in 1956 he returned to London as Vicar of St. Martin's.

**The Rev. Arthur E. Howard** conducts and preaches at the Service in Westminster Chapel. Australian-born and a graduate of Adelaide University, he too was 'behind the wire' for four years, but in 1914-18, at Ruhleben, near Berlin. Returning to Oxford and then to Cambridge University, he entered the Presbyterian ministry and became an S.C.M. travelling secretary. In 1928 he first became a branch padre in Toc H, in South Shields and later in Liverpool, and for seven years was the Area Padre of Toc H in the North-west and in Scotland. In the war years he was in Cardiff: and since 1946 has been Minister of Lansdowne Parish Church, Glasgow, and Honorary Padre of Toc H in Scotland.

**John Callf**, who opens the proceedings at this Birthday Festival Evening, joined Toc H as a member of the Wellingborough Branch in the East Midlands in 1933 and then went to East London, where he became a District Secretary. In 1937, at the age of twenty-one, he was appointed Area Secretary in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Soon after the outbreak of war, from being the first warden of the Toc H Services Club in Reading, he joined the Somerset Light Infantry and was commissioned in India in the 1/15th Punjab Regiment. After being wounded and awarded the Military Cross on the Arakan front, he was released in 1943 with the rank of Major to become Deputy Commissioner and later Commissioner of Toc H with H.M. Forces in India. Four years as West Midlands Area Secretary followed and then two fruitful years of lay ministry on the staff of Carrs Lane Church, the centre of Congregationalism in Birmingham. Based on London as Administrator of Toc H since 1954, he has made his mark in distant lands and in this country far and wide. (This is published without his permission.)



The Bishop of Lancaster preaches in All Hallows at a service of Praise and Thanksgiving at 11.45 a.m. on Sunday morning (the day following the Festival). In the late twenties he was a frequent visitor to Tower Hill and soon became known as "The Admiral". This was easier than "Lieutenant A. L. E. Hoskyns-Abrahall, R.N.", as he figured in the Navy List of those years. He is one of a great number, mounting steadily ever since the early days of the Old House and Knutsford, who owe their first steps toward ordination to Tubby's friendship and inspiration. From the parish of St. Mary, Portsea, he went to Shrewsbury School as Chaplain, and from Harrogate to become a naval chaplain in war-time. There followed ten years as Vicar of Aldershot, until in 1955 he was consecrated Bishop to serve as suffragan in the diocese of Blackburn.

THE LITERATURE STALL, where all Toc H publications and much else can be obtained or can be ordered for dispatch later, is in the Main Entrance (Door No. 6). This can be found from inside the Hall by going to the main corridor on the ground floor at the point marked "Stalls K". It is open from 7 p.m., during the Interval and at the end of the programme.

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